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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,395	09/27/2003	Larry Hak	27639/04001	2394

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EXAMINER

NOLAND, KENNETH W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,395

Applicant(s)

HAK, LARRY

Examiner

Kenneth W Noland

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-14 are is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 7-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 7-11,13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. *In regard to this, the claims recite that the seed cells are defined by "at least four surfaces". Such surfaces are not clearly described in the specification or clearly shown in the drawings. This matter is also not clearly shown or described in the disclosure of now allowed application 09/952405 from which this current application is a continuation of. Therefore the above matter is considered new matter, and new matter is not permitted. Correction is required.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harrer et al in view of Romans. Harrer et al shows in figure 10 a seed metering disc having grooved pockets 111 extending to seed cells 107**. Each seed cell shown in figure 14 is considered to have raised sides as from the base 110 of the cell. To provide Harrer et al's disc with a retention plate would be obvious in view of the teachings of

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Romans' use of the retaining plate 12 affixed to the backside of the disc 14 to effect a vacuum passage to the disc. The retaining plate has substantially the same diameter as the disc.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 7-9 and 11 are*** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(*b**) as being *anticipated** by **Harrer et al. As claims 7-11 would be best understood, Harrer et al again shows in figure 10 the disc having the grooved pockets 111 and the seed cells 107. The seed cells are considered to have at least four surfaces as the bottom 9(adjacent element 110), the surface 109, the surface 115 and two opposite surfaces adjacent the surfaces 109,115 to effect a cell pocket to retain a seed*.

7. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Harrer et al in view of Romans. As claims 13 and 14 would be best understood, as dependent upon claims 11 and 7, To provide Harrer et al's disc for a retention plate and to accommodate different sized seeds would be obvious in view of the teachings of Romans. See the remarks in paragraph 4 above.* See in Romans , col2 lines 65-67, the desired use of metering different sized seeds*.

8. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(**b*) as being *anticipated** by **Romans. Romans shows in figure 5 the seed metering disc 14 having front, back sides and the recesses 22 to capture seeds and located at the periphery of the disc.*.

9. Claims 4 and 5 are allowed.
10. Lundie et al is cited disclosing in figure 10 another seed cell having multiple sides.
11. Deckler is cited showing in figure 8 the further use of a disc having grooves 71 and seed cells 70.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth W Noland whose telephone number is (703) 308-3200. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday- Friday ,each week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh can be reached on (703) 306-4173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12.

Kenneth W. Noland 1/6/05
KENNETH W. NOLAND
PRIMARY EXAMINER